

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating non-neuropathic pain comprising topically administering a composition containing 4-6% lidocaine to non-damaged peripheral sensory nerves of a human patient near a pain locus in an amount sufficient to produce analgesia without causing anesthesia wherein said composition is incorporated into a topical patch for application to skin for a period of at least 12 hours.

2 – 7 (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said non-neuropathic pain to be treated results from a soft-tissue injury.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said soft-tissue injury is selected from the group consisting of pain associated with ligaments, tendon, muscles, bursa, sprains, strains, inflammations, contusions, arthritises, and post-surgical pains.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said non-neuropathic pain is derived from one or more conditions selected from the group consisting of myofascial pains, fibromyalgia, bursitis, costochondritis, repetitive motion injuries, carpal tunnel syndrome, and nociceptive pain.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for treating non-neuropathic pain comprising the step of:

topically administering to non-damaged peripheral sensory nerves at a pain locus, for a period of at least 12 hours, a patch containing a pharmaceutical composition consisting of 4-6% lidocaine as the only active ingredient, the remainder consisting of inactive pharmaceutically acceptable materials.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for treating non-neuropathic pain comprising topically administering a composition containing 4-6% lidocaine as the only active ingredient to non-damaged peripheral sensory nerves of a patient near a pain locus in an amount sufficient to produce analgesia ~~without causing anesthesia~~.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein said non-neuropathic pain is derived from one or more conditions selected from the group consisting of myofascial pains, fibromyalgia, bursitis, costrochondritis, repetitive motion injuries, carpal tunnel syndrome, and nociceptive pain.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein said non-neuropathic pain to be treated results from a soft-tissue injury.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said soft-tissue injury is selected from the group consisting of pain associated with ligaments, tendons, muscles, bursa, sprains, strains, inflammations, contusions, arthritises, and post-surgical pains.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein said patch contains 5% lidocaine, ~~and said administration is for a period of at least 24 hours~~.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said patch contains 5% lidocaine, and said administration is for a period of at least 24 hours.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said non-neuropathic pain to be treated results from arthritis.

19. (New) A method for treating non-neuropathic pain comprising topically administering a composition containing lidocaine as the only active ingredient to non-damaged peripheral sensory nerves in a patient near a pain locus in an amount sufficient to produce analgesia.